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PLANETARY PHENOMENA FOR MAY AND JUNE, 1910.

By Malcolm McNeill.

PHASES OF THE MOON, PACIFIC TIME.

Last Quarter...	May 2, 5^h 30^m A.M.	New Moon ...	June 7, 5^h 16^m A.M.
New Moon	" 8, 9 33 P.M.	First Quarter.	" 14, 8 19 A.M.
First Quarter..	" 15, 6 13 P.M.	Full Moon ...	" 22, 12 12 P.M.
Full Moon	" 23, 9 39 P.M.	Last Quarter..	" 29, 8 39 P.M.
Last Quarter...	" 31, 2 24 P.M.		

Two of the four eclipses of the year will occur during May.

A total eclipse of the Sun occurs on May 8th, but will not be visible in any part of the United States. The region of partial eclipse extends over the South Indian and South Pacific oceans, but the only well-known land in the track of totality is Tasmania, and on this island the eclipse is total at about sunset, when the Sun is too low for valuable observations.

A total eclipse of the Moon on the night of May 23d-24th will be visible throughout the United States. The principal phases are about as follows, Pacific time:—

Moon enters shadow	May 23,	7^h 46^m P.M.
Total eclipse begins.......		9 9 P.M.
Middle of the eclipse......		9 34 P.M.
Total eclipse ends		10 0 P.M.
Moon leaves shadow		11 22 P.M.

The Sun reaches the summer solstice and summer begins about midnight June 21st-22d, Pacific time.

Mercury is in fine position for evening observation during the first half of May. On the first of the month it remains above the horizon nearly two hours after sunset. It comes to greatest east elongation on the morning of May 2d, and then the Sun and planet begin to approach each other, but rather slowly at first, so that up to the middle of the month the planet does not set until more than an hour after sunset. The approach becomes more rapid and inferior conjunction is reached on the morning of May 25th. The planet then becomes a morning star and recedes from the Sun. By the middle of June the planet will rise about an hour before sunrise, and this condition will continue for the rest of the month, greatest west elongation being reached on June 19th. The conditions for visibility as a morning star during the latter half of June are not very good, but it may possibly be seen in the morning twilight on an exceptionally clear morning.

Venus is a morning star, and rises a little less than two hours before sunrise on May 1st and a little more than two hours before at the end of June. The planet passed greatest west elongation toward the end of April, and its apparent distance from the Sun is slowly diminishing, but the relative motion of the two bodies in declination causes a temporary increase in the interval between the risings of the two bodies. This will continue until some time in July. There will be a very close conjunction between *Venus* and *Saturn* on the morning of June 5th about 6 o'clock Pacific time. The apparent distance between the bodies will be only 4′, which is not greatly different from the limit of naked-eye separability. The time of nearest approach is after sunrise throughout the United States, so we cannot see it with the naked eye, but it will be a fine phenomenon for people in Alaska and the Sandwich Islands.

Mars is still to be seen in the evening sky, although it has lost nearly all the brightness it had during the summer and autumn of 1909. On May 1st it sets at about 11 P. M.; on June 1st shortly after 10 P. M., and on July 1st shortly after 9 P. M., less than two hours after sunset. During the two-months' period it moves from the western part of *Gemini* through that constellation into *Cancer,* about 44° eastward and 5° southward. About June 1st it is a few degrees south of *Castor* and *Pollux,* the brightest stars in *Gemini.* It is well along toward its greatest distance from the Earth and its brightness is in consequence nearly at its minimum, but it will be as bright as the pole star and there will be no difficulty about seeing it.

Jupiter on May 1st is above the horizon until nearly 4 A. M., passing the meridian a little before 10 P. M. At the end of June it sets a little before midnight. It is therefore in fine position for evening observation throughout the period. It is in the western part of the constellation *Virgo* and moves slowly westward about 1° until June 2d. It then begins to move eastward among the stars and at the end of the month it is about where it was on May 1st.

Saturn is a morning star, having passed conjunction with the Sun on April 16th, and does not get far enough away from that body for naked-eye visibility until after the middle of the month. At the end of June it rises shortly after 1 A. M. It moves about 6° eastward and 2° northward from *Pisces* into *Aries*. Its conjunction with *Venus* on June 5th has already been mentioned.

Uranus rises shortly after midnight on May 1st and at about 8:30 P. M. on June 30th. It is in the eastern part of *Sagittarius,* and moves somewhat more than 1° westward during the two months. No bright star is near it, and therefore it is not very easily identified.

Neptune is in the western sky in the evening in the constellation *Gemini.* On May 29th *Mars* passes about 2° to the north.

(SIXTY-EIGHTH) AWARD OF THE DONOHOE COMET-MEDAL.

The Comet-Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has been awarded to Mr. ZACCHEUS DANIEL, of Princeton, New Jersey, for the discovery of an unexpected comet on December 6, 1909.

Committee on the Comet-Medal:
W. W. CAMPBELL,
SIDNEY D. TOWNLEY,
HEBER D. CURTIS.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 19, 1910.